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Congress of the United States
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 23, 1979

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ACTION
is assigned to
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The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Subcommittee on International Organizations is deeply concerned by reports of involuntary disappearances of numerous persons in various parts of the world. Most of these disappearances have been attributed to governmental authorities or groups working wit the tacit support of those governments. Therefore the subcommittee is planning to hold several hearings on the phenomenon of disappearances as a major violation of human rights.

I would be grateful if you could make available to the Subcommittee Assistant Secretary of State PattDerian and Foreign Service Officer Tex Harris (who until recently served as our Human Rights Officer in Argentina) to testify on October 18, 1979, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 2255 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

I am principally interested in knowing the administration's views and response to this relatively new violation of human rights, the phenomenon of disappearances. Specifically, what remedies are being proposed both on the bilateral and on the multinational level? What is the role of our embassies and human rights officers in those countries where disappearances are reliably reported? And what have we done to put in force United Nations Resolution 33/173 - "Disappeared Persons" passed by the General Assembly on December 20, 1978?

Enclosed for your assistance is a copy of our instructions for witnesses. Should you have any other questions, please contact Fariborz S. Fatemi on the subcommittee staff at (202) 225-5318.

Sincerely yours,

Don Bonker

Don Bonker, Chairman
Subcommittee on International Organizations

DB:ffs

Enclosure

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
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Subcommittee on International Organizations

INSTRUCTIONS TO WITNESSES

Please forward to the Subcommittee on International Organizations (Room 703, House Annex No 1, Washington, D.C. 20515) a brief biography of your personal and professional background.

Witnesses are asked to keep their oral presentations to a maximum of fifteen minutes to allow adequate time for questions by Members of the subcommittee. Your written statement will be included in the hearing record when it is printed.

Please forward to the Subcommittee staff at least twenty copies of your written statement 48 hours in advance of your testimony. If you wish your statement to be distributed to the press and the public, additional copies will be necessary. You may bring the additional copies of your statement directly to the hearing room prior to commencement of the hearing.

Additional material which you submit for the record will be included as space and cost allows. This should be given to the Subcommittee Staff Assistant, Sande Reinhardt.

The heading on your statement should include name, title, organization, date of testimony and the subcommittee, i.e.

Subcommittee on International Organization

Each witness will receive a copy of the hearing transcript soon after it is obtained from the reporters (usually within two weeks). Witnesses should edit their own remarks only, without changing basic meaning or context. Edited and revised manuscripts should be returned to the Subcommittee within five working days from the time of receipt.

If you have any questions on these or other matters, please contact Sande Reinhardt at 225-5318.